

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A hardware upgrade operably connected to a set top terminal the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the set top terminal comprises a receiver that receives television program signals, a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal, and the digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber selection.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are digital audio signals and the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

Claim 4. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are digital audio signals and the audio processing circuitry comprises digital audio processing circuitry.

Claim 5. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 6. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

Claim 7. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

- Claim 8. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.
- Claim 9. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.
- Claim 10. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the interface and processing circuitry, the microprocessor accepting the subscriber selections and controlling the audio processing circuitry.
- Claim 11. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.
- Claim 12. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 11 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.
- Claim 13. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
- Claim 14. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises an LED device.
- Claim 15. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.
- Claim 16. (Canceled)
- Claim 17. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1, wherein the interface to the terminal comprises a multipin connector.
- Claim 18. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 17, wherein the multipin connector is a multipin connector ranging from type DB9 to type DB25.
- Claim 19. (Canceled)
- Claim 20. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.
- Claim 21. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
- Claim 22. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the selected audio signals is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system, wherein the digital audio signals represent audio programs;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; ~~and~~

a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal; and

a first hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 24. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the terminal is capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by only an audio signal.

Claim 25. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

Claim 26. (Original) The terminal of claim 25 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.

Claim 27. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 28. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 29. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 30. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

Claim 31. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the terminal has an expansion card slot, and the interface comprises at least one card connector adapted for use with the expansion card slot.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a display that indicates when the first hardware upgrade is in use.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the first hardware upgrade is remotely located from the terminal.

Claim 34. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 35. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals containing information about the audio programs.

Claim 36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; ~~and~~

a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second

tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system is a cable television program delivery system.

Claim 39. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises an operations center, the operations center transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 40. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises one or more headends, a particular one of the one or more headends transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 41. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system is a direct satellite broadcast system.

Claim 42. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more fiber optic connections to the terminal.

Claim 43. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more telephone line connections to the terminal.

Claim 44. (Cancelled)

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving audio programs at a set top terminal capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs from a television program delivery system using a receiver and a first tuner in the set top terminal;

receiving subscriber selections from the set top terminal;

tuning to one of the digital audio signals representing the audio programs using a second tuner based on one or more of the received subscriber selections, wherein the tuner resides on a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal;

processing the tuned digital audio signal; and
outputting the processed digital audio signal.

Claim 46. (Cancelled)

Claim 47. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of processing comprises demodulating.

Claim 48. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the step of processing comprises demultiplexing to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 49. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the step of processing comprises decrypting.

Claim 50. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the step of processing comprises decompressing.

Claim 51. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
playing the selected audio program on one or more speakers.

Claim 52. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
playing the selected audio program on a stereo.

Claim 53. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the terminal comprises a microprocessor, the method further comprising the step of:

controlling the processing and selecting steps using the microprocessor.

Claim 54. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
entering the subscriber selections on a remote control unit.

Claim 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:

displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 56. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 57. (Original) The method of claim 55 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 58. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:
generating one or more menus; and

receiving one or more of the subscriber selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generation capability.

Claim 59. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of:
receiving a data signal that identifies the audio programs.

Claim 60. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 61. (Cancelled)

Claim 62. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to a set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 63. (Cancelled)

Claim 64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

Claim 65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

- Claim 67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.
- Claim 68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.
- Claim 69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.
- Claim 70. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the subscriber interface and processing circuitry.
- Claim 71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.
- Claim 72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 71 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.
- Claim 73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
- Claim 74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises an LED device.
- Claim 75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.
- Claim 76. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.
- Claim 77. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals that contain information about the audio programs.
- Claim 78. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.
- Claim 79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.
- Claim 80. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a first means for turning to a selected audio program;

means for receiving subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection ~~from a set top terminal;~~

means, connected to the means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs, for processing the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the means for processing comprises a second means for tuning to a selected audio program ~~using a tuner based on the received subscriber audio program selection, wherein the tuner resides on a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal;~~ and

means, connected to the means for processing, for outputting a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 81. (Cancelled)

Claim 82. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for processing comprises means for demodulating.

Claim 83. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for processing comprises means for demultiplexing the audio signals to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 84. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the means for processing comprises means for decrypting.

Claim 85. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the means for processing comprises means for decompressing.

Claim 86. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for outputting a selected audio signal comprises means for connecting to one or more speakers.

Claim 87. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for outputting a selected audio signal comprises means for connecting to a stereo.

Claim 88. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means, connected to the means for processing, for controlling the means for processing.

Claim 89. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for remotely controlling the apparatus, the means for remotely controlling comprising means for entering the subscriber selections.

- Claim 90. (Original) The apparatus of claim 89 wherein the means for remotely controlling comprises means for displaying.
- Claim 91. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises means for displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.
- Claim 92. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LED device.
- Claim 93. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LCD device.
- Claim 94. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for generating menus, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the means for generating menus.
- Claim 95. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for receiving a data signal that identifies the audio programs.
- Claim 96. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.
- Claim 97. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.
- Claim 98. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising:
one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the terminal.
- Claim 99. (Cancelled)
- Claim 100. (Canceled)
- Claim 101. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 98 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are capable of operating simultaneously.
- Claim 102. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 98 wherein at least one of the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an audio program reception hardware upgrade.
- Claim 103. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 98 wherein at least one of the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an interactive hardware upgrade that receives interactive subscriber input and produces interactive output.
- Claim 104. (Currently Amended) A cable television set top terminal comprising:

a receiver that receives television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;

a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;

a first hardware upgrade connected to the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade is capable of receiving the digital audio signals and subscriber audio program selections from the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade further comprises:

audio processing circuitry, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a

second tuner that tunes to a selected digital audio signal; and

one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the set top terminal.

Claim 105. (Cancelled)

Claim 106. (Canceled)

Claim 107. (Previously Presented) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are capable of operating simultaneously.

Claim 108. (Previously Presented) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein at least one of the first hardware upgrade or the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an audio program reception hardware upgrade.

Claim 109. (Previously Presented) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein at least one of the first hardware upgrade or the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an interactive hardware upgrade that receives interactive subscriber input and produces interactive output.

Claim 110. (Currently Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals, including HDTV audio visual signals, and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 111. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system is a cable television program delivery system.

Claim 112. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises an operations center, the operations center transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 113. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises one or more headends, a particular one of the one or more headends transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 114. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system is a direct satellite broadcast system.

Claim 115. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more fiber optic connections to the terminal.

Claim 116. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more telephone line connections to the terminal.

Claim 117. (Cancelled)

Claim 118. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs, including HDTV programs, and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade operably connected to ~~the apparatus~~a set-top terminal, comprising:

an interface to the ~~apparatus~~set-top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the ~~apparatus~~set-top terminal;

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 119. (Cancelled)

Claim 120. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

Claim 121. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 122. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

Claim 123. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

Claim 124. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.

Claim 125. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.

Claim 126. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the subscriber interface and processing circuitry.

Claim 127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

Claim 128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a display.

Claim 129. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 130. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 131. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 132. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

Claim 133. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals that contain information about the audio programs.

Claim 134. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 135. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.

Claim 136. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising:
a display.

Claim 137. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 138. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 139. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 140. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising:
means for displaying.

Claim 141. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises means for displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 142. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LED device.

Claim 143. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LCD device.

Claim 144. (Currently Amended) A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal
comprising a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal, the hardware upgrade
remotely located from the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system, wherein the television program delivery system is capable of simultaneously transmitting video signals that are unrelated to the digital audio signals;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the processing circuitry comprises a second tuner capable of selecting an audio program and allows access to the digital audio signals while the unrelated video signals are viewed on a television; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selection.

Claim 145. (Previously Presented) The hardware upgrade of claim 144 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selection.
